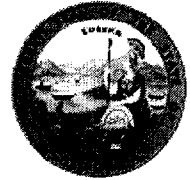




California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**

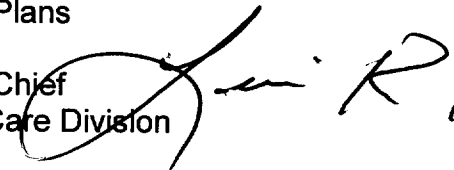


**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

March 25, 2005

MMCD All Plan Letter 05003

TO: [X] County Organized Health Systems Plans (COHS)  
[X] Geographic Managed Care (GMC) Plans  
[X] Prepaid Health Plans (PHP)  
[X] Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) Plans  
[X] Two-Plan Model Plans

FROM: Luis R. Rico, Acting Chief  
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division 

SUBJECT: Hospice Services and Medi-Cal Managed Care

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this All-Plan letter is to summarize contractual, regulatory and statutory requirements applicable to Medi-Cal managed care plans with respect to their responsibilities to provide hospice services to members in light of new regulatory requirements.

**BACKGROUND**

Hospice services are covered under plan contracts and, as specified in Title 22, CCR, Section 51349, do not affect members' eligibility for enrollment in plans. Health and Safety Code §1368.2 requires hospice care provided in California by licensed health care service plans shall at a minimum be equivalent to the hospice benefits provided under the Medicare program, as defined in Section 1812 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395d] (the Act).